

REMARKS

This application has been amended in a manner that is believed to place in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 16-23 are pending in the present application. Claims 16-23 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. Claims 1-15 have been canceled.

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 16-23 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants believe that the present amendment obviates this rejection.

In imposing the rejection, the outstanding Official Action objected to the term "i.e. comprising ..." The Official Action alleged that this terminology was indefinite. However, claim 16 has been amended so this term is no longer cited in the claim.

The outstanding Official Action also rejected claims 19, 21, and 23 for reciting the terms "such as", "as such", "e.g.", and "preferably". Claims 19, 21, and 23 have been amended so that these terms are no longer recited in the claims.

Thus, in view of the above, it is believed that claims 16-23 are definite to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 16-21 and 23 were then further rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by CHROMIAK et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the CHROMIAK et al. publication fails to qualify as prior art. The present application is a 371 application of PCT/NL98/00721, filed on December 18, 1998. International Application PCT/NL98/00721 also claims priority to International Application PCT/NL97/00710, filed on December 18, 1997. The present application also claims priority to International Application PCT/NL97/00710 under 35 USC §119.

International Application PCT/NL97/00710 is already in the English language. Moreover, the Patent Office has been provided a copy of International Application PCT/NL97/00710. As a result, applicants believe that the present application is entitled to the priority date of December 18, 1997. As the CHROMIAK et al. publication was published in October of 1998, applicants believe that the CHROMIAK et al. publication fails to qualify as prior art.

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over CHROMIAK et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, the CHROMIAK et al. publication fails to qualify as prior art. Thus, it is believed that the CHROMIAK et al. publication cannot render obvious claim 22.

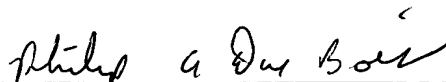
Thus, in view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that claims 16-23 are allowable.

Thus, in view of the above, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, with claims 16-23, as presented. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis are accordingly respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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